

# IN FOCUS

The Official Publication of the Jamaican Canadian Association  
E-mail: [info@jcassoc.org](mailto:info@jcassoc.org)

February 2009 Issue

## PHASES OF CHANGE

The Mad Typist© 2009

In this edition of the 'In Focus', you will read in most articles the common themes of change, support, community, youth and "Yes Wi can".

It is said that 'change' is that constant in this world that you can always rely on to happen. How we embrace change and move ahead, is the most important element that will decide success or failure. Quite recently the JCA's Board of Directors, went through their own version of change.

The Board experienced three major member vacancies; The President, Treasurer and Executive Secretary. All three past roles had volunteered with the organization, without question, very admirable, passionately and committed. Amid the past roles, none was more pivotal than that of the President, Herman Stewart. Herman started a campaign to revive the organization; re-energize JCA's membership and staff, increase fundraising and



Back - From left to right: Sylvanus Thompson, Carroll Fox, Pam Reynolds, Owen Dunbar, Rosemarie Powell, Kellie Spence, Dwaine Osbourne, Charmaine Sewell  
Front - From left to right: Audrey Campbell and Edna Smith-Bowes

strengthen relationships with partners and funders. Herman's campaign and vision borrowed the winning theme of President Barack Obama and was re-worded to "Yes Wi Can" - maintaining the organization's Jamaican roots, 'Wi', instead of 'We'. Hence it came as a sad note throughout the organization when Mr. Stewart, for personal reasons, left his position from his young Board (in average age and tenure with the organization).

Rewind more than 45 years ago, this organization was established by a group that was around the same youthful age. Now, this young Board, with their experience and knowledge, can tap into a wealth of information from past Presidents and members that have been there with the organization throughout its years. The support for the new Board was reinforced resoundingly by the (Cont. P5)

## BE INSPIRED

"The Mad Typist© 2009

Packed hall, eager well wishers, paparazzi cameras, aspiring young athletes, vibrant entertainers, pride and joy - were all a part of the atmosphere inside the Jamaican Canadian Association hall on Thursday, January 15 when the Association was graced by the presence of Olympian 400m record holder, Jamaican Melaine Walker. Melaine described it better. She said "There is so much vibes, support and love in this room that on such a cold night". It really was -

the turn out was great!

Walker, her parents and community leaders from her neighborhood in Rose Town Jamaica, were the distinguish guests of a fundraising event for the Rose Town community development area hosted by the Jamaican Diaspora Canada Foundation (JDCF). Every moment of the night was full of cheers and joy. The entertainment was very electrifying, fun filled and heart warming. One dance group, Baby Boyz, performed a medley of dance moves backed by a melting pot of different music genre. Another, entertainer,

Steele, sang a melody while Melaine's parents blessed us with an onstage dance together. The audience showed their delight through laughter at the antics performed in Devon Haughton's skit, featuring well known actors Marcia Brown and Naggio Morrison. The skit replayed the footage of Melaine's Beijing triumph. One of Rose Town's community leaders, Michael Black, relayed that he (Cont. P4)

**NEXT QUARTERLY  
MEETING  
FEBRUARY 22, 2009  
AT 2 PM**



## INTERIM PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Audrey Campbell

As the Acting President, it is my pleasure to bring greetings to all members and friends of the Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) on behalf of the Board of Directors. We ushered in the New Year with a change at the helm. Our President, Herman Stewart, departed from the organization. It was with a heavy heart that we, the Board, and you, the membership, accepted his resignation. His legacy and years of commitment resonate throughout the halls of the organization. We are grateful for the time spent with him. We wish him well in all his future endeavours.

As we move forward, the Board is cohesive and very much committed to the initiatives outlined by the former President. Fundraising continues to be the number one priority with an eye not only on paying off the mortgage but to also supporting the many social assistance and membership programs. The raffle is ready to go under the direction of Janet Neilson and Edna Smith-Bowes, Fundraising Chair. The raffle tickets are now available and with your support we anticipate a very successful event. The direct mail campaign is still on track and will be launched in March. We will be asking the community to show their support by donating \$47; one dollar for each year of JCA's existence. We are sensitive to the fact that we are entering tough economic times. Donations can be made in instalments as budgets dictate.

The results of the organizational review conducted are being implemented in stages. The first step is the hiring of a CEO for the Social Services program side. The new CEO will play an integral role in the establishment of the new

management structure. The hiring committee is in the final stages of the process and anticipate the new person will be in place very shortly.

As we head into the Annual General Meeting, we continue to outreach to the community and building on our relationship with other community organizations. Our focus is also on building a strong youth base and addressing youth related issues. JCA is the lead agency in organizing the 'Roots of Youth Violence' forum to be held at JCA in March. Our Youth Chair and Public Relations Chair are working with the Jamaican Diaspora and the Jamaican Consulate to host this event with Alvin Curling.

I would like to take opportunity to thank the members of the JCA for their support. We, the Board, are very proud and honoured to build on the work of the members that founded this organization with a vision for generations to come.

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH HIGHLIGHT— Marcus Mosiah Garvey

Marcus Garvey's greatest contribution to the Harlem Renaissance was that of changing African Americans' perception of themselves. He encouraged them to promote unity among themselves. *If must be free, you must become so through your own effort.* Garvey emphasized racial pride. He encouraged Blacks to be proud of their history. He was the first Black leader to use the phrase *Black Is Beautiful* which was adopted by the Black Power Movement of the 1960s.

Marcus Garvey wanted Black people to elevate their position in society by *creating their own position of fame, canonize our own saints, create our own martyrs and honour Black women and men who have made distinct contribution to our racial history.* Long before the new advocacy Marcus Garvey was preaching about the values of self-worth and against defeatism among Blacks before current educators climbs unto the bandwagon. He encouraged Black parents to give their children *dolls that look like*

*themselves to play with and cuddle.*

Marcus Garvey, popularly known as the *Black Moses* was undoubtedly one of the major figures in the Harlem Renaissance (the New Awakening of art, literature, philosophy, music and politics...), which subsequently permeated the entire Black population of the United States.

By: Dr. Vincent G. Conville



**JAMAICAN  
CANADIAN  
ASSOCIATION**  
995 Arrow Road  
North York, ON  
M9M 2Z5  
Tel.: (416) 746-5772  
Fax: (416) 746-7035

www.jcassoc.org

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**Audrey Campbell,**  
*Interim President*  
**Carol Fox,**  
*Treasurer*  
**Kellie Spence,**  
*Assistant Secretary*  
**Owen Dunbar,**  
*Building Chair*  
**Sylvanus Thompson,**  
*Education Chair*  
**Edna Smith-Bowes,**  
*Fundraising Chair*  
**Pam Reynolds,**  
*Membership Chair*  
**Dwayne Osbourne,**  
*Youth Chair*  
**Charmaine Sewell,**  
*Women's Chair*  
**Rosemarie Powell,**  
*Public Relations Chair*

## ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Karen Brown, AED

Change – It is the single most powerful word that has propelled the vision and aim of Barack Obama to become the new Leader of the world. He has invigorated the world with renewed energy to believe in the impossible and to achieve what was thought to be unachievable. Alas, we have agreed to accept change and to forge forward with a new leader and new visions that will catapult us to deliver exceptional culturally specific services to the families and individuals of the African Caribbean community. Once again our social services programs are experiencing some restructuring in terms of ushering in a new Chief Executive Officer. This of course is an exciting time to be a part of this historical and progressive change being undertaken by the Association.

Not only are we ready for change but so is our community, specifically the African Caribbean community. Though gun violence, physical violence, knife related violence and violence against women continue to afflict our community, the people are fighting back. Not with weapons, but by virtue of reaching out to community organizations like the JCA. Families, youth and individuals are demanding our services. Accessing social services, though still a taboo in our community, is becoming an increasingly meaningful resource. Our community is in need of financial, housing, immigration, counseling, educational support and advocacy. In response our community members heralded the plea through donations

to the organizations that provided food and financial support to families and individuals in need.

Our programs and services are thriving. The Youth Opportunity Strategies Program so far has served approximately 2000 youth in the North Quadrant. This success is shared with our partnering agencies: The Griffin Centre, Midaynta, Promoting Education and Community Health (P.E.A.C.H), Black Action Defense Committee BADC, Hincks Dellcrest Centre and Jane Finch Community and Family Centre. Hall Rental is currently operating at capacity as rental space continues to be in high demand.

The staff members at JCA have been particularly patient throughout this restructuring process. But more importantly, they have shown their strong resilience. The staff has collectively and individually shown their commitment to work out the kinks, changes and uncertainty they have experienced over the last few months. They have laughed in the face of adversity. The staff has shown tremendous growth, strength, wisdom in terms of maneuvering through difficult times and has served this agency with much resolve. They have maintained the high standard of service and program delivery expected by the Association in accordance with the JCA's mandate. They have performed their duties steeped in pride and a natural love for the work they do. No task too big or small, they never shun away from a request or task. The staff has not faltered but has depicted a stance of unity and connectedness. Our staff members recognized the call for duty and did not hesitate to step up to the plate. Staff sat down and broke bread with each other to seal their solidarity to the clients, community partners, the board and the members.

Staff, without all of your dedication and hard work, our goals would have been unattainable. I would like to personally thank the Staff, Board, Members and Volunteers for the support, guidance and positive message they afforded me throughout this transitory period. To you all, I am sincerely grateful for the opportunity and experience.

Thank you.

#### STAFF LIST

##### ADMINISTRATION

**Erica Simpson,** Student Placement  
**Janet Neilson,** Resource Development Coordinator  
**Marie Chapman,** Receptionist  
**Nikita Hollingsworth,** Social Services Intern  
**Shivana Barratt,** Administrative Support  
**Wainworth Morrison,** Finance Director

##### BUILDING

**Desmond Marriot,** Custodian  
**Jennifer McFarlane,**  
Building Operator  
**Randy Smith,** Custodian

##### CARIBBEAN YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES (CYFS)

**Beverly Valentine,** Intake Worker  
**Grace Williams,** K-Club Counselor  
**Pamela Seaton-Griffith,** LIP Counselor  
**Paulette Crooks-Drummond,** Parenting Counselor

##### NEWCOMER SETTLEMENT PROGRAM

**Joe Boetang,** Counselor  
**Sonia Deacon,** Counselor

##### OPPORTUNITY PLUS +

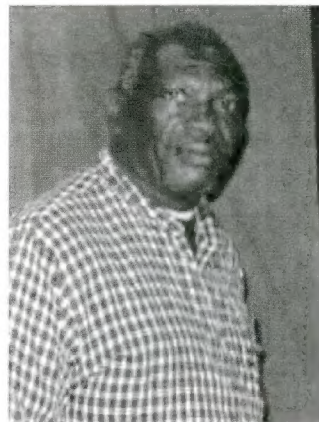
**Sandra Holness,** Coordinator  
**Annmarie Whyte,** Administrative Assistant  
**Dawn Brown,** Job Developer  
**Noeline John,** Employment Councilor

##### YOUTH OUTREACH WORKER (YOW) AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (VAW) PROGRAMS

**Karen Brown,**  
VAW and YOW Coordinator  
**Mary Mark,** YOW Lead Coordinator



## Rose Town, where? Michael black, Who?



Michael Black is the President of the Rose Town Benevolent Society. During an interview with the Mad Typist at the Melaine Walker Event at the JCA, he said "Well, I want to

tell you that it is my first time leaving the shores of Jamaica and the vibes feel good especially what is going on here tonight (fundraising put on by the Diaspora). Melaine can be thanked for most of this however the development of Rose Town has been going on since as early as 1997 way before she won gold. She is one of the great fruit of that community and she is doing her part to help in its development. There had been a great political divide within this community between north and south. We had peace for awhile until the year of 2000. However, a group of us formed a Citizen Concern Association and we

obtained the support from both these communities and we kept moving. In 2003, we build a Community Center with computers to help educate the youth. We secured help from the Kingston Restoration Corporation (KRC). The Ministry of National Security has a program called Citizen Security and Justice Program, we secured funding from this to help pay actual teachers to help out in our community center with our youth. We are working with an international agency, the Prince's Foundation, to help in rebuilding the community." Read more on the JCA Website [www.jcassoc.org](http://www.jcassoc.org).

### Join a committee:

- ☐ Membership
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Fundraising
- ☐ Youth
- ☐ Women
- ☐ Building
- ☐ Public Relations
- ☐ Finance

Dear members,  
Thank you for reading this latest edition of the IN FOCUS newsletter. We would like to invite you to submit your poetry and articles to the In Focus Editorial Committee.

## Young Entrepreneur Gives Back to the Community

If you are regular visitor to the JCA's web site or have visited it in the past, you might have noticed there are some significant changes to the current site's pages. The site is currently being revamped by Ainsley Miller, a young web developer who is an active member of the JCA's Youth Affairs Committee (YAC). Ainsley is the founder of Promilia Corporation ([www.promilia.com](http://www.promilia.com)), a company that is dedicated to developing web pages for its clients. Ainsley is a young entrepreneur and also a student

at York University where he pursuing a degree in Information Technology. He has been dedicating volunteer time with the JCA to reconstruct its web presence that will offer dynamic and capable features. New pages will be added to the site while old ones will be made obsolete. The look of the site will still be consistent with its predecessor but with more functionality. In the "back room", it will be easier for the web master to update the pages on a regular making it

more up-to-date and relevant to the community. President Barack Obama said in his address to many in his speeches that it will take a community involvement from everyone to rise above the societal challenges, and so it is refreshing to see young volunteers like Ainsley Miller giving his valuable time to build the great organization of the JCA. Much thanks to this young man.

*"Without you, we can't YAC"*

## Be Inspired cont.

called his family in Jamaica during the event for them to hear the heart warming event that the Diaspora had put on. The Diaspora and its Future Leaders group and friends carried out various fundraising initiatives during this paid event. There was overwhelming support in numbers from the community despite the cold weather. Donations were given and vendors sold their wares and autographed pictures were taken with the lady of honors. This great night was wrapped up by Melaine as she thanked her supporters and the Diaspora, and went on to deliver a great message along with responses to audience questions. She shared with us

where she is from; her community and her education. She expressed how grateful she was for all the support she had received while growing up and pursuing her career. She shared her winning formula: effort, an extra drive, discipline and motivation. She urged others not to live for others, but to live for ourselves, and know who you are. Melaine Walker graced us with humility and love, which was felt throughout the hall. Her formula for success and her message for support is a sign that one more leader is being harvested. ... Melaine Walker. Walk Good!



Melaine Walker and Sylvanus Thompson, Education Chair

We're on the Web  
[www.jcassoc.org](http://www.jcassoc.org)

## "Distinguished Leaders"

A poem by Ava Tenn

Dear Distinguished Leaders:  
Martin Luther King, Marcus Garvey,  
Rosa Parks, Fredrick Douglas,  
Malcolm X, and Harriet Tubman.

I'm writing this letter with love and respect, on behalf of myself and those who believe in Equal Rights.

I am a proud Black African-Jamaican who has recognized you, the black people before me who fought to make my days better than the ones you endured.

I've got the most amazing news to share a historical moment happened on November 4, 2008.

A Black Senator, 47-year-old Barack Hussein Obama, won Presidency of the United States of America.

Yes! That's what I said. Let me repeat!

A Blackman was elected President; a Blackman will live in the White House not as a servant, but as the head of the State, the head of the Government.

A Blackman was elected to be the Highest Political Official in the United States; an important, respected overseer and advisor.

Leaders, all that you endured to make sure that this day would come and it's finally here! All your visions and hopes of us being treated with equal rights came through last night. The change is here at last. The victory was beautiful, historical and unbelievable. People from all over the US voted, All the races came together. Lines were stretched across city streets as people waited for hours to vote. They came together and voted for a change.

When the ballots were tallied and the winner was announced people hugged, laughed and cried all at the same time, they didn't care who they were hugging, they were just happy. The world took part in the election. It was the biggest historical moment in the history of history. There is no comparison.

The "change" that you fought and died for, gave your life for, that change has come. "We over came."

I am delighted to tell you that all your blood, sweat and tears did not go in vane; your words did not fall on deaf ears. We heard you loud and clear.

We thank you forefathers and mothers. On our hands and knees with joy in our hearts and tears in our eyes, we thank you for paving the

way.

You each were the passion and drive Obama had in him. Your words and actions, his wisdom and beliefs and the many people who had so much faith in him that made him win. It was the love in his heart, the care in his voice, the truth in his eyes. It was the love and strength of his grandmother whom he loved unconditionally and who unfortunately passed-on just one day before the election took place. Barack Obama is the package that came from God. Out of many he choose one. The one who knew, who felt, who could relate, the one who loves and respects all race. Obama is whom God has been grooming for each and everyone.

Each of you would be so proud. You too would laugh and jump and cry. The win, the victory, was just magnificent. We love you: we thank you all.

Until we meet, God bless you all and the many before you.

From Ava and all the generations.

P.S. Jesse Jackson cried  
Hold it down  
Love and Respect

**TUBMAN**  
Will return in  
the next edition  
of the IN FOCUS



The JCA Domino Club meets on Fridays or Saturdays every week at the Jamaican Canadian Association inside the Games Room.

Call for more information:  
Josephine Spence:  
416-570-7601  
Gifford Walker:  
416-222-4695

## PHASES OF CHANGE cont.

JCA membership on Sunday, January 25 at a special meeting. Audrey Campbell, then Vice-President, assumed the role of Acting-President. Carol Fox, Accountant and long standing JCA member, took up the reign as Treasurer. Edna Smith-Bowes active Fundraiser and member for the organization glided comfortable into the long vacant role as Fundraising Chair. Kellie Spence, current assistant secretary, assumed some of the responsibility of the executive secretary until that role can be properly filled. As for the rest of the Board

members, they stayed committed in their role and pledged to move forward and enhance the campaign and vision of their past President. To date Ms. Campbell has been actively engaging with JCA's Acting Executive Director, Karen Brown, along with various funders and community partners. All fundraising initiatives are still on track. Events that were planned by the different committees are still being given the green light. Old partnerships have been strengthened with new life and new partnerships have been forged. The JCA is a cornerstone in the community recognized by its membership, staff, board, partners, the community and funders - so the drum beats on and even louder.

Change is inevitable and the new Board seems to be fully aware of this and making the most of it. Past Britain Prime Minister Winston Churchill once said, *"It's not enough that we do our best; sometimes we have to do what's required."* Keep the chant and action alive... "Yes Wi Can!". Stay connected to the organization through volunteering and checking online ([www.jcassoc.org](http://www.jcassoc.org)) for up-to-date news and events.



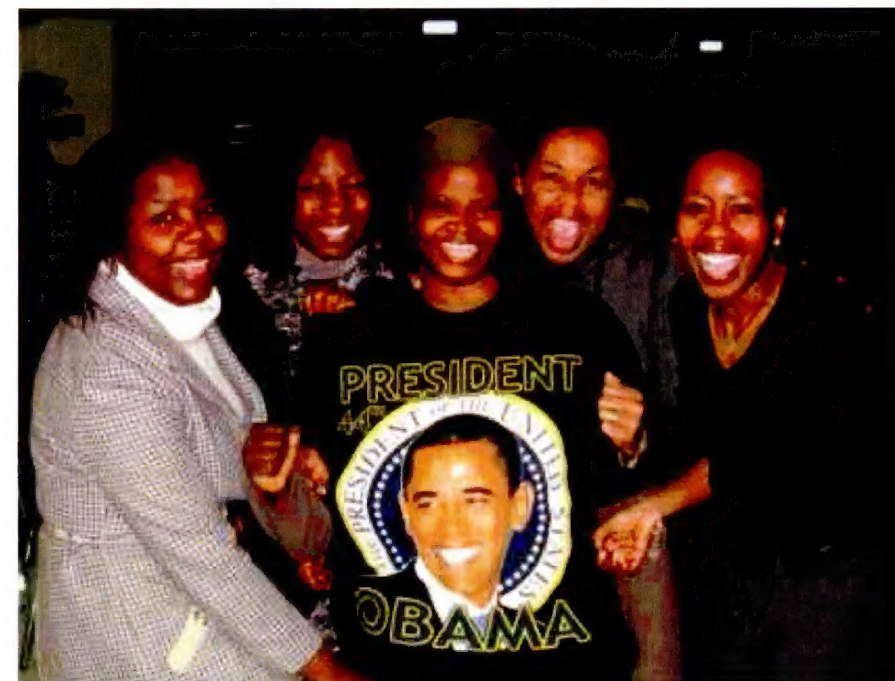
# Melaine Walker - 400 M Hurdles 2008 Olympic Champion



Jamaican Melaine Walker won the 400 m hurdles Gold at the 2008 Beijing Olympics in a new Olympic record time of 52.64 seconds. Hundreds came to greet her at a fundraising event organized in partnership with the Jamaican Diaspora Canada Foundation.



# OBAMA Inauguration Event



January 20, 2009 marked the inauguration of Barack Obama, the first African American President of the United States of America. Hundreds came out to the JCA to witness the event organised in partnership with the Jane Finch Concerned Citizens Organization.





## WOMEN'S SPACE

Charmaine Sewell, Chair

My journey to Washington began November 4<sup>th</sup> 2008, on Election Night USA. As the returning numbers indicated a sure victory for Barack Obama, I knew that on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009, I wanted to be in Washington, D. C.

As the Obama family appeared on stage and he stood before that Chicago crowd to give his acceptance speech, I longed to be there.

There have been several occasions down through the ages when God in His infinite wisdom deemed it necessary to send a "Moses" to deliver a People from certain oppression. There is little doubt that, during this moment in US and world history, Barack Obama is the "Moses" for our time. Not only would he be the President of the United States of America, but he has affected a global change in the mindset of countless people in every nation like no other movement has ever done. No. He is not the Messiah. He is simply the man whom God has chosen to help guide a generation out of ruin.

On the bus, most of us gave our reasons for braving the frigid temperatures to see

history being made. In a generation of bad tempers, rudeness, and blatant self-centeredness, I give full praise to my fellow travelers and would like to again say sorry to the gentleman whose foot I kept kicking every time I changed position throughout the trip.

We arrived in Arlington, Virginia at 4:30 A.M., purchased our \$10.00 commemorative day pass and boarded the Metro into Washington. Beginning with the train ride, my friend's huge Canadian flag, plus the smaller ones that had been provided to us on the bus, were the cause of curious conversations throughout the day. You could feel the euphoria in everyone you met. People smiled and greeted each other as if they were long time acquaintances. Instinctively everyone knew everyone else's destination. There was an unmistakable tenor of pride in the voices of each American we spoke to. Pride in knowing the world had come to celebrate with them, and were praising them for this momentous accomplishment. Their moment in time!

The 6:30 A.M. crowd at the National Mall seemed surreal

somehow. Strangers conversing with each other as we watched highlights of the weekend's celebrations play across the jumbo screens. By 10:00 A.M. the sun, emitting no heat, shined down as brightly as in the middle of July. Not one single person seemed to mind the cold or that we were pushed up against each other like sardines. There was no desire to complain; we were all a part of the same dream and we were living the moment. Every soul, our hearts beating in unison, in oneness, waited for time to pass. Our senses heightened with an indescribable sense of happiness. The crowd roared as Barack's image appeared on the screen. Then a deafening silence as we watched this simple man who had risen from humble beginnings, stood before a crowd of millions to take the oath of office, officially making him the 44<sup>th</sup> President of The United States of America, the first African-American citizen to hold such a position.

Only God in His infinite wisdom could have written such a story.

Yes he did!

### K-CLUB & SMTP PARTNERS TO CREATE A GREAT SUCCESS STORY

John is a 16-year-old male who was born in Jamaica and was abandoned by his mother at an early age. His paternal grandmother sponsored him to live with her in Canada where he lived for the past 10 years. John demonstrated a great deal of rebellious behaviour to his grandmother as well as ongoing conflicts with his cousin. He also got into several altercations at school. After various meetings between the school and his grandmother the school suspended him for a short while. His grandmother then engaged the Jamaican Canadian

Association (JCA) Youth and Family Services for help. Caribbean Youth and Family Service, in particular the K-Club, advocated with the school system on behalf of the family and was successful in getting the appropriate assessment for him which then allowed him to be placed into a smaller class setting. This allowed him to be more focused as well as having access to his own Youth Worker. We recommended I then recommended him to the JCA Saturday morning tutorial program while I continued to engage him in individual and family counselling. Eventually, John was

reintegrated back into a regular class-size at school. The relationship at home improved and contact was made with his father in the United States who after some consultation took John to live with him and his new family. My latest follow-up indicated that John has made the transition very well and is in school. The school, John and his grandmother all expressed their thanks and gratitude to the JCA for the valuable assistance provided.

The Women's Committee invites all members, families and friends to our 10th Annual Interntation Women's Day Celebration to be held on March 8, 2009.

Contact members of the Editorial Committee to submit articles or place an ad:

Rosemarie Powell  
Rosemarie Hylton  
Dwayne Osbourne  
Sheila Raymond

Tel: 416-746-5772

Email:  
jcainfocus@gmail.com

## Saturday Morning Tutorial Program

- SMTP -

### BOLT to Educational Success!

Kellie Spence



Happy African History Month, Everyone!

As we have been caught up in Obama fever this last month, let us not forget where he came, where we came from. We come from a long history of people that have cried, suffered, and sometimes perished. However, we persevered. We toiled together, we laughed together, we danced together and we fought together. We fought for our rights. Rights to enjoy the fruits of this earth and the privileges of an evolving society. As we celebrate African History Month, we remember our ancestors that have come before us. They have paved the way for the success that we can achieve today.

Whatever stage in life we are in - child, student, adult, father, mother or elder - let us look forward to the opportunities that we can create for ourselves in the future.

The Annual JCA Black History Month Celebration will take place on **Thursday February 26 from 9:00 am to 12 noon**. Approximately 400 students will be participating in the event. The Guest Speaker will be Ontario Judge Justice Kofi Barnes and other special guests include Farley Flex, Consul General Anne Marie Bonner, Robert Small and Tiki Carpenter-Clarke. Toronto Police, the Canadian Forces (to be confirmed), the Jamaica Information Service (to be confirmed) and the Minister of Education will be participating also. There will be several performances from the students and local entertainers. The MC will be Letna Allen-Rowe.

**"The secret of success in life is for a man [and woman] to be ready for his [or her] opportunity when it comes."** - Earl of Beaconsfield  
**Education is that opportunity. Welcome to the SMTP.**

**Western Caribbean Cruise for two—\$2**  
**All inclusive trip for two to Jamaica—\$2**  
**Trip to Jamaica with \$500 cash—\$2**  
**Flat screen television—\$2**  
**Laptop—\$2**  
**Dirt Bike—\$2**  
**Retiring the mortgage by our 50th Anniversary... PRICELESS**

### Caribbean & Canadian History (Ask a Tutor)

- ♦ Beginning in the 1700's, Caribbean-made rum was exported North to the Maritimes of Canada. What product went South in return?
- ♦ Matthieu Dacosta was the first African to set foot in Canada was traveling for business. What was his job?
- ♦ Name 3 Caribbean countries that the Maroons settled in? What year did they come to Canada?

## "YES WI CAN" FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Janet Neilson, Resource Developer

### Raffle

The 'Yes Wi Can' campaign is going well with the first fundraising event the Cruise and Trip Raffle. We have printed 25,000 tickets at \$2.00 per ticket. The raffle will be presented at the official launch at the Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) Centre. We expect to raise about \$40,000 from the raffle. The JCA needs your support in making this fundraising campaign a success.

### The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Walkathon

We are inviting everyone to participate in our **2009 Walk for the Future; Walk with the Children** on Sunday, May 3,

2009. The walkathon will help to support the Saturday Morning Tutorial Program and the Annual JCA Scholarship Awards. The JCA looks forward to building a strong relationship with the community that will enable us to fulfill the hopes and dreams of our youth. As you know, the success of the walkathon relies greatly on community support. It is therefore important to that we join together to increase the awareness and appreciation for the **2009 Walk for the Future; Walk with the Children**.

**The JCA 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Golf Classic** The Jamaican Canadian Association 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic will be held on

Saturday, August 15, 2009 at Cardinal Golf and Country Club in Kettleby (Hwy 9 East of Hwy 400). The reception and dinner will be held at the JCA Centre. Please come out and support the tournament because the proceeds will assist in supporting the JCA's services. The launch will take place on Friday, May 15, 2009 in the Members Lounge at the JCA Centre.

### Direct Mail Campaign

The JCA will be launching a Direct Mail Campaign. We will be asking for donations for each year JCA has existed for the next three years, this year of \$47.00, for next year the request will be \$48.00 and \$49.00 in 2011.



## New Board Member Highlights



Owen Dunbar,  
Building Chair

The Public Relations Committee is responsible for the publication of the JCA In Focus. Members are:

Rosemarie Powell, Chair  
Rosemarie Hylton  
Dwayne Osbourne  
Alton Telfer  
Sheila Raymond  
Pauline Reynolds  
Zenover Brown  
Herman Stewart

Letters and submissions are welcome. The Editorial Committee reserves the right to edit materials for content and length.

**Q: How long have you been a member of the JCA?**

**A:** On and off since 1991

**Q: What do you hope to achieve in this coming year as Building Chair?**

**A:** I hope for more people and also more young people on the committee.

My personal goal is to see JCA do well and service the community the way it was meant to be.

**Q: What would you like the membership to know about you?**

**A:** I consider myself very fortunate, that's why I joined the JCA. It's important to give back to the community. My gift is to serve the JCA so that others can benefit from it. My hobby is photography.

**Q: Outside of the JCA, do you have any other community involvement?**

**A:** I am a Fleet supervisor at

the United Parcel Service. I was the United Way Coordinator for the 2005, 2006 and 2007 Campaigns.

**Q: The month of February is Black History month and Family day and Valentine's Day also occur during this month. What thoughts do you have on any of these topics?**

**A:** Family is very important. I think a family staying together will create stronger bond and a larger group within the black community. It's important for men to stay within the family and raise their sons to be responsible men.

## MEMBERSHIP SERVICES CORNER

Pam Reynolds, Chair



Over the last year, the membership has increased. We have had 14 renewed members, and seniors are the fastest growing segment of the membership. We are planning recruitment and

retention strategies to attract and maintain new members. A new a membership brochure will be developed soon.

The Annual Children's Party was well attended. There were over 250 children and we have started preparation for the 2009 party. JCA typically receives monetary donations and gifts from CHUM, and the Membership Services Committee will be pursuing other charities to donate for the same cause.

The Membership Services Committee collected

\$170.00 through its Annual Christmas Dinner, which was donated to the Education and Culture Committee.

We are sorry for the loss experienced by the following members and their family during the months of December, to February:

Pam Powell  
Maxine Adams  
Camille Hannays-King  
Adeva Smith  
Ismay Murray

We also send get well wishes to Nehemiah Bailey and Ann Marie Whyte.

Live well!

### UPCOMING EVENTS BEFORE THE NEXT QUARTERLY MEMBERS MEETING

Please note: The following event dates were submitted to the Public Relations Committee by the printing deadline

Event	Committee	Feb 09	Mar 09	Apr 09	May 09
Black History Month Event	Education and Culture	26			
International Women's Day Event	Women		08		
Roots of Youth Violence Forum	Youth		12		
Women's Roundtable Discussion	Women			24	
Spelling Bee Competition	Education and Culture			26	
Annual Walkathon	Fundraising				03
Annual General Meeting	Members				31

In Focus is published quarterly by the Jamaican Canadian Association  
995 Arrow Road,  
Toronto, ON M9M 2Z5  
Phone: 416-746-5772  
Fax: 416-746-7035  
E-mail: info@jcassoc.org



995 Arrow Road, Toronto, ON M3M 2Z5  
Telephone: (416)746-5772 Fax: (416) 746-7035  
Email: info@jcassoc.org Website: www.jcassoc.org

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICANT FORM

DATE OF APPLICATION: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
MM DD YY

APPLICANT:

MR. ☐ MRS. ☐ MS. ☐

SURNAME: \_\_\_\_\_

GIVEN NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ (OPTIONAL)  
MM DD YY

CO-APPLICANT:

MR. ☐ MRS. ☐ MS. ☐

SURNAME: \_\_\_\_\_

GIVEN NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ (OPTIONAL)  
MM DD YY

CONTACT INFORMATION:

ADDRESS: APT/UNIT STREET # STREET NAME

CITY POSTAL CODE

TELEPHONE: HOME: BUSINESS: MOBILE:

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP FEES PAID: \$25 ☐ SINGLE (25-64yrs) \$35 ☐ FAMILY (2 adults + children under 16) \$10 ☐ SENIORS (65+) \$10 ☐ YOUTH/STUDENT (16-24yrs)

APPLICANT SIGNATURE

CO-APPLICANT SIGNATURE

DATE

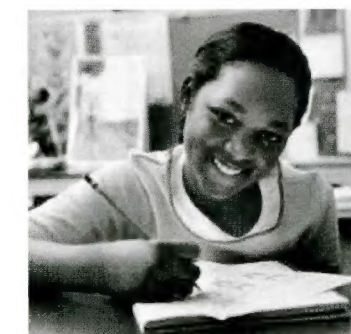
### Highlights:

- ♦ High quality teaching and learning within the mandated Ontario curriculum.
- ♦ Teaching philosophy, curriculum, and school environment which truly reflect the diverse experiences and histories of people of African descent.
- ♦ Caring and compassionate school environment that is responsive to the needs of each learner.
- ♦ A Parenting and Family Literacy Centre for pre-school children and parents. Parents, caregivers, and community members as significant partners in the education of the students.
- ♦ Focus on teamwork, problem-solving, leadership and community responsibility.
- ♦ Emphasis on learning the value of positive behaviour, respect for each other, for adults and Elders.
- ♦ After-school activities for students, and access to high quality school age child care on school site.

Transportation to and from school is the responsibility of parents/caregivers.



**AFRICENTRIC ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL, JK - Grade 5**  
1430 Sheppard Avenue West



Student and Community Equity Office  
416-397-3138



# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION 2009

**Guest Speaker:**  
Marya Wisdom  
Wisdom Consulting

**Awards & Special  
Recognitions  
Entertainment  
Refreshments**

**Tickets: \$15.00**

**Sunday, March 8, 2009 -  
2:00 P.M.**

**Join us for a stimulating  
and entertaining  
afternoon**

**The JCA, 995 Arrow  
Road  
(West of HWY 400, south  
of Finch)**



## WOMEN RECOGNIZING WOMEN



### "Sharing the Caring For the Future" (UN)

**Hosted by:**

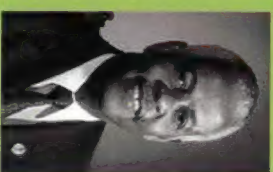
**The Women's Committee  
Jamaican Canadian Association  
In partnership with the Women's Inter-  
cultural Network (WIN)**

**For more information please contact the  
JCA**

**995 Arrow Road  
Toronto, ON M9M 2Z5  
416-746-5772**

## Roots of youth violence Community Forum

**Let your voice be heard**



**Date: March 12, 2009  
Time: 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm  
Location: Jamaican Canadian Association  
995 Arrow Road (Arrow & Finch)**

Invited guest speaker, **Alvin Curling**, former Speaker of the Legislature, will present findings from the report and share recommendations of how to continue building safer, stronger communities. You will have the opportunity to provide your views on the root causes of youth violence and on the solutions to it.

*A collaboration of The Consulate General of Jamaica, The Jamaican Canadian Association, The Jamaican Diaspora Canada Foundation, June/Finch Community and Family Centre, Recognize the Real, Tropicana Community Services, Youth Association for Academics, Athletics and Character Education (YAAACE).*